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that prohibitive duties should be levied on such raw products as cocoanuts, fibres, punnac, fish, bone, prawn skin etc., with a view to encourage their manufacture into valuable articles within the State.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VIII. Religious and Charitable Institutions.

67. Sircar Devaswoms and their management.

Mr. V. Subramonyan Muthathu (Member, T. I. C., Thiruvella) said that all the Hindu temples now under the management of the Sirkar were originally maintained by private individuals and trustees until 987 M. E., when the Sircar assumed them. The Major temples numbering 380 had landed properties of their own, but the Minor temples, 1,182 in number, were maintained out of the properties of the former. The *padivu* or scale of expenditure in the temples fixed in 994 M. E., continued to be in force at present ; but, owing to the fluctuations in prices, the cost of all articles had increased. In some temples, the *vilavasi* or the increased cost, on acccount of the rise in prices, was sanctioned ; while in other temples, only such quantity as could be purchased for the prices fixed in 994 M. E. was allowed. This difference had arisen from the misconception of the authorities concerned. The *Nivedyam* cooked rice now supplied from the temples to the Devaswom subordinates was unfit for consumption. The management of the Devaswoms was unsatisfactory. They were nominally under the supervision of the Dewan Peishkars, but were really managed by the ill-paid subordinates whose pay ranged from Rs. 10 to chs. 10. per mensem. With their responsible revenue and judicial duties, the Dewan Peishkars were unable to attend to their Devaswom duties. As the reorganization of the Devaswoms was under the consideration of the Government, the Member made the following suggestions :—

(1) that all the Major temples in a taluk might be placed under the management of a Board, the members of which might be elected from the caste Hindus of the locality, including the trustees and beneficiaries of the important temples, with the local executive officer as the President, subject to the supervision of the Division Peishkar or any other officer appointed for the purpose;

(2) that the obsolete scales of expenditure fixed in 994 M. E. might be modified so as to retain at least the existing remuneration of the several servants holding hereditary offices and to reduce many items of less importance, such as, expenditure on fire-works, illuminations and feasts;

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(3) that an *Acharakanakku*, *i. e.*, rules of procedure, should be prepared, defining the rights, liabilities, duties and remuneration of all the servants of a temple, so as to avoid future disputes. The old *padivu* account does not define the rights and liabilities of the several servants of each Devaswom, nor their duties and their remuneration. There must be a definite record of that sort to avoid future disputes. In the absence of documentary evidence, the Government now had sometimes to exercise their discretion;

(4) that the movables which were not useful, but were stored in the different temples, might be disposed of at once and the proceeds credited to the Government. Sometimes, movables of large value were left in the custody of hereditary trustees who were comparatively men of no means. Though some of them had a *Karanma* right to the custody of jewels &c., they were poor and did not furnish security. They themselves committed misappropriation and so did the watchmen;

(5) that the movables, which were absolutely necessary, must be selected and kept in an important Major Treasury in the absence of proper accommodation in the Taluk Treasury;

(6) that neglected Minor temples should be traced and in case the idols were found to be located in unsuitable localities, such as places surrounded by non-Hindu inhabitants, they should be transferred to the adjoining Major temples;

The Member here observed that in many cases *poojas* were not performed, yet the allowances were being regularly paid.

Dewan.—Are you aware of any Minor temples where no *poojas* are performed but money is being received ?

Member.—Yes, many.

Dewan.—Give a few specific instances. You may take your own time and prepare a list and give me; I have been hearing of this complaint from other quarters also.

Member.—There is a Mission Church, and very close to it there is a temple dedicated to Siva. There is no rice offering. It is known to all the natives of that place. With all that, 13 paras and 20 fanams are regularly paid on account of *poojas*.

Dewan.—What is the taluk that you are speaking of ?

Member.—Thiruvella.

(7) That, in addition to the Budget estimates for the various ceremonies of the temple, separate allotments might be made for the construction, repair, and maintenance of the temple buildings;

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(8) that an attempt should be made to trace the Devaswom properties and separate the revenue, if it could be done;

Dewan.—Do you think it is an important matter?

Member.—To trace out all the old accounts for this purpose may be an impracticable task. But according to the present Settlement, the tenure of each property is known. Devaswom properties may be ascertained from the Settlement Registers.

(9) That any change in the present system of working, if contemplated by the Government, should be published and objections heard before passing final orders.

Dewan.—I shall look into the whole question carefully.

IX. Miscellaneous.

69. Not less than 20 members of the Assembly should be Mahomedans, that being one-fourth of the number of members for the Assembly.

Mr. Hussan Pillai (Member, Nominated) represented that it was well known to the Government that, of the three communities, Hindus, Mahomedans and Christians, the Mahomedans were the most backward. Their community, he said, was spread over the whole State, and their educational and other needs would not be adequately represented unless more representatives from their community were allowed in the Assembly. He pointed out that special privileges were granted to them in British India, in consideration of the fact that they could not secure the necessary votes for seats in the Legislative Councils, and he requested that at least one-fourth of the total number of representatives to the Assembly should be Mahomedans.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

A rule should be passed for the election of an adequate number of Ealava representatives to the Assembly with due regard to population and the status of the community.

Mr. Untaman Krishnan (Member, Nominated) urged the necessity of increasing the number of the Ealava Members in the Assembly, with due regard to their numerical strength and their importance in the State.

Dewan.—How do you propose it to be done. Do you want them to be nominated or elected?

The Member replied that he would like to have each taluk represented by an Ealava Member. He subsequently modified his statement by saying that at least 12 Members should be nominated, as the representation of each taluk by an Ealava Member was not feasible.

As the present system of election of the Members from the taluks fails to secure representatives from the Ealava community, the Government

Mr. Kumaran Asan (Member, Nominated) said that, considering the population of the Ealavas, who numbered six lacs, and the large interests they had in the State, their re-

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